(a) whether it is a fact that India would exceed the target of 21.4 billion dollers exports this year; if not reasons thereof;

(b) what are the reasons for high level performance on export market;

(c) whether it is a fact that dollers are earned clandestinely through Havala market and are brought back through trade channels; and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that target of imports worth 24.8 million dollars would not be achieved; If so, the reasons thereof;

(e) what is the expected trade deficit in current year;

(f) whether Government have received complaints that customs do not clear samples in time;

(g) whether it is a fact that loading at ports on an average takes 12 days; and

(h) whether it is a fact that duty draw back and International Reimbursement Price Scheme are time consuming?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) and (b) The Ministry in consultation with Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Boards has fixed an export target of US $ 22.13 billion for 1993-94. Aggregate exports for April—October, 1993, the latest period for which such data is available, amount to US $ 12.131 billion registering a growth of 20% over the corresponding period last year. The improved environment of the new EXIM Policy and the supporting financial and fiscal measures have contributed to this good performance and it is hoped that with the sustained efforts of trade and industry this target will be met.

(c) While the incidence of some malpractice referred to in part (c) of the question cannot be ruled out, the Enforcement Directorate of the Ministry of Finance takes prompt action against havala racketeers as and when specific intelligence is received.

(d) No targets are set for imports.

(e) If the present trend of trade deficit is maintained, the trade deficit during 1993-94 may be under US $ 1.5 billion.

(f) No general complaints have been received regarding delays in clearance of samples by the customs authorities. Whenever any specific instance of delay is brought to the notice of the Ministry of Finance, the same is looked into.

(g) The loading time of the vessels very according to the types of commodity, parcel size and draft of the vessel. No statistics are maintained which may indicate the average loading time at varous ports.

(h) While the duty drawback scheme, as administered by the Directorate of Drawback, is generally not time consuming, specific cases of delay are looked into on merits. The procedure for obtaining reimbursements under the IPRS Scheme is not as such a time consuming process. However, of late there has been delay in disbursement of IPRS claims due to shortage of funds to finance the scheme. The Government is trying to arrange for more funds for IPRS.

Import of edible oil

347. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL :
SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to import edible oil to meet the gap between supply and demand;

(b) if so, the quantity of the edible oil proposed to be imported stating the names of the country of import and the prices at which the edible oil is proposed to be purchased;

(c) the extent to which the gap between the supply and demand of edible oil is likely to be abridged; and

(d) its overall impact on the domestic prices of edible oil ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (d) The Govt. takes steps to augment the availability of oil by resorting to import after reviewing the availability position of the edible oils keeping in view the factors like demand, indigenous production, prospects of ensuing crops of oilseeds & prices etc. However, disclosure of quantity of oil required to be imported at any point of time is not considered in the interest of country, since such disclosures are likely to increase the prices of edibel oil in the international market. During the current financial year, a quantity of 42,000 tonns of palmolein has so far been imported from malaysia. The estimated CIF Kandla price of RBD Palmolein is US $ 402.50/407.50 per tonne.

ESI Dues outstanding from Various Employees

348. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA :
SHRI GAYA SINGH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about Rs. 178.56 crore is outstanding from various employers as ESI dues ;

(b) if so, the details and reasons for the accumulation of such a huge amount as defaults ; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to recover these dues and also to reduce the accumulation of such dues in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on 31-3-1993, an amount of Rs. 178.56 crores was outstanding on account of ESI dues against various employers. The ESI dues have increased generally because of the Courts' stay on their recovery, liquidation/closure of establishments, sickness of establishments and delay in collection of the dues through District Collectors.

(c) The ESI Act was amended in 1989 and for expediting the recovery of the ESI dues, a provision was made to set up the Corporation's own revenue recovery machinery which has since started functioning w.e.f. 1-1-1992. The legal and penal provisions in the Act were also made more stringent.

सांसदों द्वारा मंत्रालय को लिख गए पत्र

349. **श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल :** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 1 अप्रैल, 1990 से 31 मार्च, 1993 की अवधि के दौरान सांसदों द्वारा मंत्रालय को कितने पत्र लिखे गये और उनका वर्ष-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) उनमें से कितने पत्रों की पावती भेजी गई;

(ग) कितने पत्रों के अन्तिम उत्तर भेजे गये; और

(घ) मंत्रालय द्वारा क्रमशः सकारात्मक और नकारात्मक उत्तर वाले भेजे गये अन्तिम पत्रों के पृथक पृथक आंकड़े क्या हैं ?

श्रम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० ए० संगमा) : (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है तथा सभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी ।

राज्यों में बिजली की कटौती

350. **श्री राम नरेश यादव :** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) चालू वर्ष के दौरान बिजली की कटौती के कारण कितने कार्य घन्टे नष्ट हुए हैं; और